United Nations S/2002/709

Security Council

Distr.: General
27 June 2002

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Somalia

I. Introduction

1. In its presidential statement of 31 October 2001 (S/PRST/2001/30), the Security Council requested me to submit reports, at least every four months, on the situation in Somalia and on efforts to promote the peace process, including updates on the scope of and contingency planning for launching a peace-building mission for Somalia. In its presidential statement of 28 March 2002 (S/PRST/2002/8), the Council asked me to report by 30 June 2002 on the implementation of its requests contained in the statement, particularly regarding the coherent and incremental coordination and expansion of United Nations peace-building activities in Somalia, subject to the security conditions prevailing in the country.

2. The present report covers the period since my last report, of 21 February 2002 (S/2002/189), and highlights the regional peace effort spearheaded by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in support of national reconciliation in Somalia, including steps taken to convene a national reconciliation conference for Somalia at Nairobi. In addition to an account of significant political and security developments, it provides an update on the humanitarian situation and developmental activities undertaken by United Nations programmes and agencies as well as measures taken by them in response to the above-mentioned presidential statement. The report also includes information on the steps taken by the Secretariat to establish a Trust Fund for Peace-Building in Somalia and the Somalia Contact Group.

II. Political developments

A. Internal political situation

3. The Transitional National Assembly approved Prime Minister Hassan Abshir Farah's new cabinet on 9 March and the Transitional National Government continued to reiterate its dedication to pursuing peace and reconciliation in Somalia. On 13 March, the President, Abdikassim Salad Hassan, visited the Galgadud and Hiiraan regions, but the tour was cut short on 17 March as a result of tension in Beledweyne and the President returned to Mogadishu.

4. The Somali Restoration and Reconciliation Council issued a press statement on 1 March, after three days of consultations at Dire Dawa, Ethiopia, stating that it would participate in the IGAD national reconciliation conference for Somalia to be held at Nairobi and that it encouraged all other parties to participate. The Prime Minister reiterated the readiness of the Transitional Government to attend the conference and welcomed the Council's decision. He expressed concern, however, that the Somali Restoration and Reconciliation Council and Ethiopia expected the conference to start from scratch, rather than building on the achievements of the Arta peace process.

5. On 1 April, the Chairman of the Rahanwein Resistance Army, Hassan Mohamed Nur "Shatigudud" (one of the leaders of the Somali Restoration and Reconciliation Council), was nominated President of a new regional administration, "The South-Western Regional State of Somalia". The new regional state was said to comprise six regions: Bay, Bakool, Gedo, Lower Shabelle, Middle Juba and Lower Juba. Some

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leaders of the Somali Restoration and Reconciliation Council, such as General Abdullahi Aden Nur, were reported to have opposed the formation of the new regional administration.

6. The "President of Somaliland", Mohamed Ibrahim Egal, died on 3 May, in South Africa, and was buried at Berbera on 6 May. The "Somaliland" Parliament immediately nominated Mr. Egal's "Vice-President", Dahir Riyale Kahin, as the new "President", pursuant to the provisions of the "Somaliland" Constitution, and later approved "President" Kahin's nomination of Ahmed Yusuf Yassin for the post of "Vice-President".

7. On 22 May, Mr. Kahin informed my Representative that he would continue the policies of his predecessor and would not participate in the IGAD conference, even as an observer. Mr. Kahin also said that he hoped to hold multi-party elections next year and would be willing to open a dialogue with "the south" when the latter had resolved its problems.

8. In "Puntland", Colonel Abdullahi Yusuf left Garoowe with a large militia on 6 May and entered Boosaaso two days later, meeting almost no resistance from the militia of Jama Ali Jama, his adversary who had earlier claimed to be the legitimate "President" of "Puntland". Mr. Jama fled to Las Anod stating that he had done so to prevent the loss of civilian lives, but that he was still the "President". He subsequently went to Djibouti en route to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. Colonel Yusuf's military action followed failed local peace efforts and a diplomatic initiative by Ethiopia to mediate between the two adversaries.

B. Security

9. Continuing insecurity in Mogadishu and in the southern part of the country resulted in civilian casualties, including humanitarian aid workers. On 22 February, a Swiss aid worker, Verena Karrer, was murdered by gunmen in Merka. Ms. Karrer had been running her own non-governmental organization, New Way, in the town since 1993. The Transitional National Government arrested some suspects.

10. Incidents of kidnappings have risen sharply in Mogadishu. The head of the office of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Mogadishu, Ahmed Mohamed Moalin, was kidnapped and held hostage from 28 February to 4 March. On 28 April, a national officer of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Mohamed Ali Aborkor, was kidnapped, as a result of which the United Nations suspended all activities in urban Mogadishu on 7 May. Mr. Aborkor was held in captivity under harsh conditions and finally released on 25 May. National staff employed by United Nations agencies have since resumed limited activities in restricted areas of Mogadishu.

11. On 25 and 26 February, fighting erupted in the Medina district of Mogadishu between the militias of Omar Mohamed Mohamud "Finnish" and Musse Sudi "Yallahow", in which some 30 people were killed and 50 others wounded. Hassan Sheikh Ali, who had worked as a UNICEF consultant, was killed in crossfire on 26 February. Tension between the two faction leaders, both of the Abgal sub-clan, began in December 2001 when Mr. Mohamud signed an agreement with the Transitional National Government in Nairobi, as a member of the United Somali Congress/Somali Salvation Alliance group (see S/2002/189, para. 6).

12. The house of the Interior Minister of the Transitional National Government, Dahir Sheik Mohammed "Dahyah", was attacked by unknown persons in Mogadishu on 10 March. The Minister was not at his residence at the time but two civilians were killed. On 24 May, a second attack on the same residence was led by Mohamed Omar Habeeb "Mohamed Deere", reportedly in reaction to the alleged terrorizing of people in the Middle Shabelle Region, which Mr. Dahir controlled. As others see it, this was the beginning of a wider war aimed at eliminating the Transitional National Government. Thirteen people were reported killed and many more were wounded. Fighting erupted in north Mogadishu on 28 May between the forces of the Transitional National Government and those allied to Musse Sudi "Yallahow" and "Mohamed Deere", each side accusing the other of starting the hostilities.

13. In mid-February, fighting broke out at Bardere, Gedo Region, between the Somali Restoration and Reconciliation Council and the Juba Valley Alliance militias. General Mohamed Said Hersi "Morgan" of the Somali Restoration and Reconciliation Council was reported to have attacked the town but was repulsed. United Nations agencies temporarily evacuated Baidoa on 19 February as a precautionary measure but returned on 27 February. In mid-May, fighting broke out between Marehan sub-clans in Gedo and continued in

Bulo Hawa, resulting in the death of several civilians and causing a large number of refugees to flee into Kenya. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Transitional National Government accused Ethiopia of supporting one of the Marehan sub-clans and of actively participating in the fighting (see S/2002/550; see also S/2002/570). Ethiopia denied any involvement and, in turn, accused the Transitional National Government of using Ethiopia as a scapegoat (see S/2002/562).

C. The humanitarian situation

14. The humanitarian situation in Somalia remains dire. Access to vulnerable groups reached a low point during the reporting period following a series of security incidents involving United Nations staff and renewed fighting in several parts of the country. Owing to persistent insecurity in Gedo, United Nations agencies have been prevented since early April from delivering food and other necessities to an estimated 200,000 vulnerable people in northern parts of the region. Furthermore, recent fighting near Bulo Hawa resulted in the displacement of thousands of Somalis to the Kenyan town of Mandera, where assistance was made available by United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and the Government of Kenya. Preparations have been made to address needs within Gedo, resulting from prolonged drought and fighting, as soon as conditions permit.

15. The abduction of a UNDP staff member in Mogadishu, followed by the resumption of hostilities between supporters of the Transitional National Government and the Somali Restoration and Reconciliation Council, resulted in the suspension of United Nations operations in the city and its environs. An estimated 1 million inhabitants of the city were thus denied access to critical assistance, particularly in the health, water and sanitation sectors. Limited United Nations operations in Mogadishu have now resumed. In "Puntland", international staff of United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations were evacuated in mid-April because of fighting between rival factions.

16. With regard to food security, above-average cereal production during the *deyr* short rains (October-November 2001) alleviated the immediate need of poor households in Bay, Bakool and Hiiraan regions. However, the very poor *gu* long rains (March-April 2002) in Bay and Bakool regions, as well as in southern Gedo, raised concern that food shortages will be acute later this year in most of south-western Somalia. In the northern parts of the country, particularly in the Bari and Awdal regions, the failure of seasonal rains has resulted in a dramatic increase in the price of water and a degradation of grazing lands, seriously affecting pastoral livelihoods and prompting population movements. Interventions aimed at rehabilitating and maintaining water sources are urgently needed in those areas.

17. A total of 2,487 cholera cases, including 158 deaths, were reported from March to May 2002. Outbreaks reported in Boosaaso and Galkayo and in villages in the Bari Region were successfully contained through collaboration between United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations. Further progress in the health sector includes a marked decline in the number of meningitis cases during the reporting period due, in part, to a meningitis vaccination campaign that reached 190,000 persons in the Hargeisa area during the month of May. With the exception of parts of Mogadishu, agencies were able to carry out National Immunization Days in designated areas on schedule during the reporting period.

18. As at 6 June 2002, $23.7 million had been received against the 2002 Consolidated Appeal for Somalia. This constitutes only 28.2 per cent of the $83.9 million requested.

III. Peace initiative of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and regional developments

19. The IGAD Technical Committee on Somalia, comprising the frontline States (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya) and the IGAD secretariat, met in Nairobi from 3 to 5 April to discuss the terms of reference for the conference. The Committee subsequently decided that a subcommittee of the Technical Committee would travel to Somalia to gather the views of Somalis before the Technical Committee could finalize its preparatory work.

20. From 17 to 20 April, Ethiopian, Kenyan and IGAD secretariat representatives on the subcommittee travelled to Somalia. Djibouti declined to join,

claiming inadequate planning and that it had not been sufficiently consulted on the visit. Furthermore, it asserted that some Somali leaders, such as Jama Ali Jama, were not in the country to meet with the subcommittee. Nevertheless, the subcommittee visited Boosaaso, Hargeisa, Galkayo, Mogadishu and Baidoa. Some key figures, however, including Mohamed Ibrahim Egal in "Somaliland" and the President of the Transitional National Government, Abdikassim Salad Hassan, in Mogadishu, were unavailable to meet them.

21. In a briefing to the diplomatic community in Nairobi on 15 May, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kenya, Marsden Madoka, reported on his efforts to bring Djibouti back into the subcommittee. He said that he had travelled to Djibouti and obtained the agreement of the President, Ismail Omar Guelleh, for Djibouti's return to the subcommittee. The President had explained that Djibouti had stayed out of it because of Ethiopia's military presence in Somalia. The Kenyan Foreign Minister then travelled to Ethiopia and raised the complaints of Djibouti and the Transitional National Government with the Prime Minister, Meles Zenawi, who reiterated Ethiopia's concerns regarding national security.

22. Subsequently, the subcommittee met on 20 and 21 May in Nairobi to prepare for a second visit to Somalia. On 22 May, the subcommittee announced that it would defer its visit until the IGAD heads of State had had the opportunity to confer later in May during the summit of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) at Addis Ababa. The Government of Djibouti was meanwhile quoted in the media as saying that the subcommittee could not make further progress because Ethiopia wanted the conference to begin from scratch, whereas Djibouti insisted on building on the outcome of the Arta process. A meeting of the IGAD heads of State on the margins of the COMESA summit was convened but was not held. The Presidents of Ethiopia, Kenya and the Sudan and the IGAD secretariat did however discuss Somalia. Although the IGAD Foreign Ministers had agreed, at their meeting in Nairobi on 14 February to follow up on the IGAD Summit, that the conference would include the Transitional National Government and all other Somali parties without any conditionalities, two opposing views have emerged over participation in the conference. While the Transitional National Government and Djibouti insist that the outcome of the Arta Conference be built upon, that the Transitional National Government be accepted as the government and that the other Somali parties participate in the conference as the opposition, the Somali Restoration and Reconciliation Council and Ethiopia are of the view that all the Somali parties should participate on the basis of equality.

23. My Special Adviser, Mohamed Sahnoun, and my Representative for Somalia, Winston Tubman, participated in the IGAD Partner Forum meeting held in Rome on 11 April. The Forum issued a statement in support of the IGAD effort in the preparation of the conference. They noted with satisfaction the efforts by the IGAD frontline States in that regard and urged all Somali parties to participate in the conference constructively and without preconditions. The Forum also commended the statement of the President of the Security Council of 28 March 2002, in particular its reaffirmation of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and unity of Somalia.

24. During the period under review, the Transitional National Government expressed concern over Ethiopia's alleged intervention in Somalia on several occasions. Officials claimed that Ethiopia was disregarding the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Somalia by supplying arms and ammunition to Somali groups opposing the Transitional National Government. They stated that they would not participate in the conference unless Ethiopia changed its policy. The Transitional National Government also issued a statement calling for Ethiopia's exclusion from the IGAD Technical Committee charged with the preparation of the conference.

25. The Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Meles Zenawi, has strongly rejected the accusations against his country. Ethiopia claims that the Transitional National Government has ties with Al-Itihaad and provides a sanctuary for terrorists, a claim that the Transitional National Government denies. Prime Minister Zenawi has also denied any ill feeling of his Government towards Somalia.

IV. United Nations activities

A. United Nations Political Office for Somalia

26. Since his assumption of office in Nairobi early in April, my Representative and head of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia has held a wide range of consultations with Somali parties and representatives, the United Nations Country Team for Somalia and the international community in Nairobi. The United Nations Political Office for Somalia has also been supporting the IGAD Technical Committee's efforts to prepare for the conference. My Representative's consultations have included preparations for the establishment of the Trust Fund for Peace-Building in Somalia and the Contact Group that will meet in Nairobi.

27. My Representative made his first visit to Somalia on 22 May. He met the new "President of Somaliland" in Hargeisa and then travelled to Baidoa, where he met the "President" of the newly formed "South-Western Regional State of Somalia" and other leaders of the Somali Restoration and Reconciliation Council. He was not able to include Mogadishu in the visit owing to the suspension of United Nations activities following the abduction of the UNDP staff member. He plans to travel to Mogadishu as soon as security conditions permit and to meet officials in "Puntland" after they lift the restriction on United Nations activities.

28. My Representative also held consultations in the region from 3 to 14 June with President Ismail Omar Guelleh in Djibouti, Prime Minister Meles Zenawi in Addis Ababa and President Daniel arap Moi in Kenya, and with senior Government officials in Egypt and Saudi Arabia and members of the resident diplomatic community in those countries. He met the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), Amara Essy, in Addis Ababa and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, Amr Mussa, in Cairo.

29. All the leaders expressed serious concern about the current state of the IGAD peace process. President Guelleh felt it was urgent to end the stalemate and suggested that the IGAD preparatory process for the conference be widened to include other regional countries. He also deemed important the participation of donor countries, so as to assure support and assistance for the outcome of the conference. He expressed his willingness to cooperate with the IGAD initiative to complete the Arta process. Senior officials of Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the League of Arab States expressed similar views and stressed that the concerns of their Governments regarding national reconciliation in Somalia should be given due consideration in any peace efforts undertaken by the international community.

30. Prime Minister Zenawi informed my Representative that he expected the national reconciliation conference to be held on the basis of the decision taken at the IGAD Summit held at Khartoum in January, and assured him that all efforts would be made to ensure that it was as inclusive as possible. He said that Ethiopia had supported the Arta process and even the formation of the Transitional National Government, but had withdrawn its support because of the Transitional National Government's persistent links with Al-Itihaad. He informed my Representative that Ethiopia was, in an open manner, involved diplomatically and politically in Somalia and would continue to be involved, not least to protect its national security interests.

31. The Secretary-General of OAU pledged closer monitoring of and assistance for the peace process in Somalia and underlined the importance of maintaining the unity and territorial integrity of the country.

32. As coordinator of the IGAD initiative for the convening of the national reconciliation conference for Somalia, President Moi expressed concern at the stalemate in the IGAD peace process and stressed that the differences between IGAD countries had to be resolved before progress could be made on the convening of the conference in Nairobi. He attached importance to all the Somali parties participating in the conference without conditionalities.

B. Establishment of the Somalia Contact Group

33. In accordance with the presidential statement of 28 March 2002, which endorsed the establishment of a Somalia Contact Group in Nairobi and in New York, the Secretariat has undertaken the necessary consultations. I have concluded that the Contact Group should be established along the lines of the ambassadorial meeting of external actors on Somalia that used to be convened for the exchange of information and coordination of peacemaking efforts

on Somalia among external actors. I have asked the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs to convene the first meeting of the Contact Group in the coming weeks. The composition of the corresponding Contact Group in Nairobi, chaired by my Representative for Somalia, will mirror that of New York to the extent possible.

C. Trust fund for peace-building in Somalia

34. The terms of reference for a United Nations Trust Fund for Peace-Building in Somalia, which would support the preparatory activities on the ground for a comprehensive peace-building mission and supplement the United Nations Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal, have been jointly reviewed by the Department of Political Affairs, UNDP and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. The Trust Fund will be opened for contributions in the coming weeks.

D. Team of experts on the arms embargo on Somalia

35. Pursuant to paragraph 1 of Security Council resolution 1407 (2002), I appointed a team of two experts for a period of 30 days (see S/2002/575), to provide the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) with an action plan detailing the resources and expertise that a future panel of experts would need to generate independent information on violations and to improve the enforcement of the weapon and military equipment embargo on Somalia established by paragraph 5 of resolution 733 (1992).

36. The team left for the region on 11 June 2002 and is expected to visit Djibouti, Ethiopia and Kenya. For security reasons, it is not expected that it will be able to visit Somalia as planned. The team will submit its report to the Committee shortly, for submission to the Council early in July.

37. On 28 May 2002, the Committee expressed deep concern about the lack of receipt of information concerning alleged violations of the arms embargo and underlining the importance of the expeditious implementation of resolution 1407 (2002). The Committee has sent letters to all Member States reminding them of their obligation to comply scrupulously with the arms embargo established by paragraph 5 of resolution 733 (1992) and to report all available information on violations or suspected violations of the arms embargo. Individual letters were also sent to the States neighbouring Somalia and other countries in the region that might have the ability to monitor air, land and sea traffic in the area, as well as to the Secretary-General of OAU and the Executive Secretary of IGAD, requesting cooperation with their organizations.

E. Operational activities in support of peace

38. The ongoing operational efforts of United Nations agencies and programmes are based on the premise that much useful work can and is being done to promote and build peace in a situation of localized conflict and uncertainty, with a particular focus on regions of relative calm which have functioning regional and local authorities. Areas of ongoing activity include those outlined in the statement of the Security Council President of 28 March 2002 as well as social and economic revitalization, review and training for judicial systems, promotion of human rights norms and institutions, and capacity-building of governance and administration. Particular attention is given to vulnerable groups of returning refugees, internally displaced persons and host communities. In addition to these ongoing projects, United Nations agencies and their development partners continue to identify cross-cutting issues and strategic entry points to promote peace-building.

39. The return of refugees and internally displaced persons is a major challenge to Somali communities. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has made substantial progress towards creating conducive conditions for returnees, by means of information campaigns, dialogue between countries of asylum and local authorities and organized confidence-building visits of refugee representatives to areas of return. UNDP and UNHCR are completing the second phase of their joint Reintegration of Returnees and Displaced Persons Programme in north-western Somalia. This pilot programme aims to develop a multi-agency model for broad-based community reintegration throughout Somalia.

40. The World Food Programme (WFP), in its Food for Work Programme, supports income-generating

activities for minority groups, including internally displaced persons, marginalized clans and vulnerable groups throughout the country. These projects also help to rehabilitate community assets such as roads, markets, schools, wells, water catchments and irrigation canals.

41. UNDP, in consultation with local authorities, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organization partners, is continuing the implementation of the Somali Civil Protection Programme. Progress has been made in the reconstruction of police and judicial infrastructure and in the training and development of law enforcement and judicial services. Work on the Police Training School at Mandera in the north-west was completed, including a separate dormitory for female recruits, the first group of 30 women starting in June 2002. Mainstreaming of human rights has also been introduced into the curriculum for this intake, following a "training of trainers" course initiated by UNDP.

42. The Demobilization Task Force of the Somalia Aid Coordination Body, under the Somali Civil Protection Programme, continues to review, plan and coordinate international support for demobilization and reintegration work in Somalia, with regular coordination meetings both in Nairobi and in Somalia. The programme of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Mogadishu helped to demobilize 450 militia (between the ages of 15 and 35) by providing training for both literate and illiterate demobilized youth in 11 different trades. The International Labour Organization (ILO) rehabilitation pilot project and the Sport for Peace Project (UNESCO) address economic recovery and social reintegration within the framework of a consolidated common approach for the demobilization and reintegration of militia. UNICEF is commencing an expanded child protection programme for Somalia, in close cooperation with UNDP and other United Nations and international agencies, addressing formal and non-formal juvenile justice and law enforcement mechanisms, capacity-building of police officers in relation to child protection, prevention of juvenile delinquency and training of young people, and small arms reduction and demobilization in relation to child soldiers.

43. UNDP and the United Nations Office for Project Services continue to build on the foundations of the Somali Mine Action Centre in Hargeisa, through which technical support is provided to local authorities for a mine action strategy, including a mine action information system and the drafting of mine action policies and work plans in accordance with the terms and aims of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. The mine action programme is ready to expand and engage in the south and the north-east as soon as security conditions permit. A preparatory assistance phase for a UNDP small arms control project under the Somali Civil Protection Programme has been completed.

44. The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) continues to promote gender mainstreaming in United Nations agency programmes and to ensure the strengthened participation of women in all United Nations efforts to implement a development strategy for peace-building in Somalia. UNIFEM seconded a gender and demobilization expert to the German Agency for Technical Assistance programme in north-western Somalia, which has developed a database on former militia and their dependents based on gender. At a grass-roots level in the Lower Shabelle and North-west regions, UNIFEM continues to support inter-clan dialogue among women to promote reconciliation and peace. UNIFEM also supported the participation of women in a policy seminar on mainstreaming gender in IGAD peace-building and humanitarian policies. In "Puntland" UNHCR is supporting the Galkayo Education Centre for Peace and Development, to enhance the role of women in peace-building and to raise awareness of and respect for women's rights and gender equality.

45. The UNESCO Civic Education and Peace Education Project conducted radio and pre-production workshops with the participation of various partners. This resulted in the dispatching of different radio programmes, which were aired by all partner radio stations in Somalia and the region, including Radio SONECA at The Hague and the BBC.

46. The World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF and UNHCR have taken initiatives on HIV/AIDS education and prevention, including training by WHO on syndrome management and HIV/AIDS clinical management for health professionals in Hargeisa, Baidoa, Garoowe and Mogadishu. UNFPA worked with health officials in Hargeisa on prevention strategies.

UNHCR has also conducted information campaigns for returnees on this issue.

47. Both emigrant remittances and livestock exports have traditionally been major earners of income in Somalia. Both have been seriously eroded recently, posing a threat to economic and social security. Following the closure of Al-Barakaat, a leading money transfer company, after the tragedy of 11 September, and the growing difficulties faced by other companies in their international money transfer operations, UNDP has encouraged discussions among administrative authorities, Somali companies and international banking institutions to foster an enabling environment for those companies to comply with international financial rules and regulations and follow transparent systems and procedures.

48. UNDP and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) have been collaborating since 2001 to introduce livestock and meat production standards, as well as quality control and certification mechanisms, aimed at reopening the livestock and meat trade to the Gulf countries. This initiative still requires concerted attention because the largest market, Saudi Arabia, remains closed by the ban imposed in September 2000. The United Arab Emirates and Oman have reopened their markets to both meat and livestock from Somalia, but those two markets account for only 3 per cent of total exports.

49. In north-western Somalia, UNDP is supporting a land survey (cadastral) project that seeks to meet the need for land and collateral, and employs a process that is conflict resolving in character. The process is transparent and participatory and based on the resolution of existing and potential claim disputes. It uses traditional, local-level, consensus-building and mediation techniques to ensure a fair process of land tenure and titling involving demarcation, on maps and on the ground, of the boundaries of private farms. Also in the north-west, Habitat is supporting several municipalities in water management and municipal planning. In collaboration with partners, FAO will continue efforts to assist Somali authorities develop a countrywide water and land information management system.

50. UNDP and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development have supported the northern ports of Berbera and Boosaaso in developing and strengthening facilities and local management capacities. Somali authorities are now managing both ports and UNDP continues to support two vocational training centres, responding to private sector opportunities for employment.

51. Since 1996, the International Civil Aviation Organization, with the support of UNDP, has been working to maintain proper air traffic control of the Somali skies as a caretaker authority. Funds for this initiative are normally advanced by UNDP and reimbursed from the over-flight charges paid by the airlines. Owing to the recent international security situation, the number of flights over Somalia has been drastically reduced. Consequently, the resources available to support this important service are insufficient. It is important to establish a financial mechanism to maintain a steady flow of resources to maintain this service, which is essential to Somalia and to the international community.

52. The Somalia Watching Brief Programme implemented by UNDP and supported under the Post-Conflict Fund of the World Bank collaborates with the Transitional National Government, regional administrations and other development partners to review and prioritize data needs and to collect and compile socio-economic data for informed decision-making, planning and monitoring. In addition, UNDP reached an understanding with other partners for the preparation of a preliminary version of the Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper with the participation of Somali administrations and under their leadership to the extent possible. Both initiatives are very important in monitoring the millennium development goals.

53. The United Nations Country Team for Somalia has initiated a process of internal consultations on three further initiatives which would be national in scope, multi-agency in planning and execution, encompass both humanitarian and developmental elements of a peace-building strategy, and build, where possible, on what is already being done. The initiatives are:

(a) A Skills for Somalis programme, which would coordinate and build upon current efforts to provide technical and vocational training skills to Somali youth in close consultation with local authorities, civil society and the private sector. A number of "centres of excellence" would be established throughout the country, each centre focused on a small number of skills, with trainees selected countrywide.

The programme would address a range of pressing needs, including technical education, demobilization, return and reintegration and a growing decentralized market economy;

(b) A Provision of Basic Services project within the existing Reintegration of Returnees and Displaced Persons Programme, which would try to ensure that the four basic services of water, sanitation, health and education are available to vulnerable communities of returnees, internally displaced persons, host populations and disadvantaged minority groups. The project will be planned in close consultation with prospective beneficiaries, local authorities, civil society, and United Nations and other agencies. Its implementation methodology would encourage employment opportunities, community management and the empowerment of women;

(c) A programme for the exchange of technical expertise for Somali professionals from a range of technical and administrative disciplines which would give an opportunity to exchange experience and knowledge and develop uniform standards of operation. Priority areas could include telecommunications and transport (air, sea and road), social services such as education and health and the management of public utilities. Beneficiaries would include both the public and private sectors, as well as civil society.

54. These collective efforts of United Nations agencies to develop and implement projects and programmes which can operationalize a development strategy for peace-building represent a commitment to strengthening coordination and preparing a United Nations Country Team strategy to support overall United Nations peace-building efforts and strengthen Somali participation in them.

V. Observations

55. Despite the efforts of the Government of Kenya in coordinating the IGAD initiative to convene the national reconciliation conference for Somalia, the conference was not held in April as anticipated. As I noted earlier, the IGAD peace process is at an impasse because of differences on how to proceed on national reconciliation.

56. The environment of apparent suspicion, both among regional countries and inside Somalia, needs to be defused urgently if a productive conference is to be held. Consensus and coherence among the IGAD frontline States is essential for the IGAD effort in support of national reconciliation in Somalia to succeed. It is also clear that the IGAD frontline States and other neighbouring countries, as well as donors, must use their influence to encourage the Somali parties to take positive and reconciliatory steps towards establishing peace and security in their country.

57. I appeal to the IGAD member States and other countries in the region not to allow differences among themselves to impede the national reconciliation process in Somalia. Such differences will only complicate the already difficult task of peacemaking by encouraging contending Somali groups and leaders to adopt inflexible positions on national reconciliation so as to safeguard their interests and weaken the influence of those Somalis who want an end to violence and the restoration of peace in the country.

58. It is my hope that the Somalia Contact Group will prove to be a useful forum for the exchange of information and coordination of peacemaking efforts among external actors. In my view, the efforts of Member States in the months ahead should be focused on helping the IGAD member States to reach an understanding on a common approach to national reconciliation in Somalia. I stand ready to help those efforts through my Representative for Somalia as well as my Adviser, who could focus on strengthening collaboration among the IGAD frontline States and other neighbouring countries. I also appeal to all countries to support this important regional peace effort.

59. Somalia has witnessed an escalation of violence in recent months, particularly in Mogadishu and Gedo, which has cost many civilian lives and resulted in a worsening of the humanitarian crisis. I urge Somali leaders to refrain from military action and violence and make every effort to participate constructively in the peace process. Ordinary Somalis have had to wait too long for peace, and have suffered greatly for more than a decade. Somali leaders must grasp the important opportunity presented by the IGAD peace initiative, and participate in good faith in the conference that is intended to bring lasting peace and security to Somalia. It is the duty of leaders to lead, not to pursue narrow partisan advantage.

60. The humanitarian situation remains precarious. Recent fighting and insecurity in Mogadishu and Gedo underline the fragility of the situation and the lack of certainty regarding humanitarian and developmental interventions. Access to the civilian population continues to depend upon the good will and interests of Somali leaders. The best intentions and plans of United Nations agencies and their partners lie hostage to those who hold power in different parts of Somalia. Despite these serious hindrances, United Nations agencies are planning ahead and are putting in place some unique programmes of capacity-building in different parts of the country.

61. I share the view of the Security Council that much more needs to be done in Somalia in the humanitarian and development areas as well as peace-building efforts. The response to the 2002 United Nations Consolidated Appeal for Somalia has been disappointing. I urge Member States to contribute to the Appeal to enable effective humanitarian and recovery efforts in Somalia to continue. I also appeal to Member States to contribute generously to the Trust Fund for Peace-Building in Somalia to support preparatory activities for a comprehensive United Nations peace-building mission in the country.